

Important Notice Regarding the October 2011 State PSAT/NMSQT Program –Grade 11 Implications

Due to budget curtailments across all departments of state government, the Department of Education will no longer be requiring -or covering the costs for – PSAT/NMSQT testing for all public school 11th graders. Federal grant funding for longitudinal data studies, will allow the state to continue to fund (and require) PSAT/NMSQT testing for all public school 10th graders for the October 12, 2011 administration.

While future funding of the 10th grade PSAT/NMSQT program beyond next October is not certain, at this time it looks like the federal grant may be able to support the 10th grade testing program for the next few years.

- Districts committed to providing 11th grade students with the opportunity to participate in the October 12, 2011 PSAT/NMSQT administration must be aware that the district, school, or individual student will be required to pay the \$14/student test fee. The following information may help districts ensure comprehensive testing for 11th grade students: **PSAT/NMSQT Coordinators may request fee waivers for juniors who qualify.**
 - ✓ **Deadline for ordering fee waivers for juniors is June 15th**; Fee waivers are allocated on a **first-come, first-served** basis and may not be available after this date.
 - ✓ **Qualifications requirements as well as the process to request fee waivers is available at** <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/waivers/guidelines/psat>
- **Unused test fees are waived for all Maine public schools; the more inclusive the 11th grade cohort, the more comprehensive the district (and school) data reports:**
 - ✓ **Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS):** an online report that helps improve teaching and learning by providing information about student performance on individual skills
 - ✓ **AP Potential™:** a web-based tool that allows educators to generate rosters of students likely to succeed in AP courses
- **MPO Accommodations will no longer be available to 11th grade students.**
 - ✓ Students with disabilities who meet the College Board's eligibility criteria and submit the accommodations requests on time will be approved for their needed accommodations.
 - ✓ Accommodations requests must be submitted by **August 24, 2011** for students whose documentation must be reviewed by the College Board, and by **September 7, 2011** for those students whose documentation does not need College Board review.
 - ✓ More information about the SSD eligibility process for all College Board programs, including when documentation is required, can be found at: <http://www.collegeboard.com/ssd>
- **The PSAT/NMSQT will continue to provide your 11th grade students with:**
 - ✓ **Valuable skills feedback:** The feedback students receive helps identify skill gaps and provides suggestions for improving prior to the spring 2012 MHSA/SAT administration.
 - ✓ **Information from colleges:** Students can opt in to Student Search Service to start receiving free admissions and financial aid information from colleges interested in them.
 - ✓ **College and career planning tools:** Continued free access to My College QuickStart™, a personalized online college- and career-planning kit.

Should you have any questions regarding strategies for continuing an inclusive PSAT/NMSQT administration for 11th graders, do not hesitate to contact Mary Ellen Auriemma (mauriemma@collegeboard.org) of the College Board's New England Regional Office.